

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for discussing the present case with Applicants' representative. Applicants have enclosed the present Declarations to provide evidence to show that the Vigo fabrics are acidic. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner noted that Applicants needed to provide support that the Vigo fabric remains acidic. As noted in the Declarations, Applicants have licensed the Vigo technology and have been working to bring this technology to market. Thus, the Applicants have first hand knowledge of the benefits and deficiencies of the Vigo technology.

Applicants have discovered that the Vigo technology possesses certain shortcomings that prevent it from being acceptable in the marketplace. Specifically, Vigo and the Applicants use an acid catalyst to initiate the PEG reaction that bonds the PEG to the fabric. Unfortunately, Vigo did not recognize that the fabric must be neutralized to prevent the reversal of the reaction. Following Vigo's directions, Applicants created a product as instructed by the cited articles, by washing the treated PEG fabric in warm water and a detergent. The resulting washed fabric remained acidic with the consequence being the pooling of the PEG formulation and the washing out of the same from the fabric.

Applicants discovered that the hydrolyzed acidic residue residing in the treated PEG fabric of the Vigo technology resulted in the reversal of the PEG reaction. This reversal is primarily responsible for the PEG formulation washing out of the fabric. Vigo failed to realize this consequence of his fabric remaining acidic. Applicants further discovered that treating the fabric with a strong basic solution neutralized the finished fabric such that the acid residue is removed and the fabric has a final pH between about 6.5 to about 7.5.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1 is allowable and an early notice of such effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the foregoing Response, she is invited and urged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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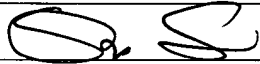
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